norms and standards relating to the Internet;

(c) whether Government propose to raise the matter at some suitable international fora to evolve some international policy against hackers and to establish institutional framework, so as to discourage website hackers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Not presently. Web technology is the most powerful manner of sharing information among the dispersed diaspora. Any restraint in this regard may be counter productive. There is sufficient open exchange of information and there are established procedures to protect the websites against such intrusions.

Downfall of Information Technology Sector

†559. SHRI JENESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Information Technology Sector after the initial bounce appears to be declining;

(b) whether it is also a fact that main reason is its being beyond the reach of common people; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to install internet booth at different places and to reduce the rates of intenet?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) In Software driven IT industry, indications suggest that due to slow down in the world economy, the software exports of on-site services is likely to be affected to some extent. However, out-sourcing of software services by international companies is likely to go up as a means of cutting the costs. On the whole it is expected that the Indian software industry will continue to maintain a healthy growth rate.

(c) The Internet booths at various places are mainly to provide IT facility to the common people and it may not have a direct link with the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

software boom. The Working Group on IT for Masses set up by the Government has set an ambitious target of at least 100 million Internet connections by the year 2008 and 1 million Internet enabled IT kiosks/cyber cafes to be established covering the entire length and breadth of the country. Recently, a National IT Mission has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary (IT) for implementation of the recommendations of the WG on IT for masses.

Growth of fake computer institutes in Delhi

560. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen reports titled "Fabulous discounts to lure new students" appearing in the Times of India dated 14th June, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of Information Technology Institutes are mushrooming in the capital for the last few years duping students of crores of rupees; and

(d) if so, the names of the Information Technology Institutes operating in Delhi without licence and what action Government propose to curb these institutes forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government is aware that a large number of Information Technology Institutes have mushroomed in the capital in the last few years. However, licence is not required for operating an institute imparting training in the Information Technology. DOEACC Society (an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Information Technology) has a voluntary scheme by the name of DOEACC (Department of Electronics Accreditation of Computer Courses) Scheme, under which Institutions in the non-formal sector are given accreditation for conduct of DOEACC courses on their request, subject to their meeting well defined criteria in terms of faculty, infrastructure etc.